RBI has further reported that the Bombay High Court, *vide* its Judgement dated September 5, 2005 in a batch of petitions namely Vijay C Puljal & Others *Vs.* State of Maharashtra & Others declared the Maharashtra Protection of Interest of Depositors (in Financial Establishments) Act, 1999 (MPID Act) to be ultra vires of the Constitution of India on grounds of lack of competence of the State Legislature to enact such law. The State Government has gone in appeal before the Supreme Court in the matter.

Subsequent to the decision of the Bombay High Court, the Full bench of Madras High Court considered the validity of the Tamil Nadu State legislation for the purpose of protection of depositors in Mrs. S. Bhagvathy *Vs.* State of Tamil Nadu on March 2, 2007. The Madras High Court held that the Tamil Nadu Act, is traceable to Entries 1 and 32 of List 11 (State list), besides falling under Entries 1, 7 and 8 in the concurrent list, and that it does not fall within the legislative field of the Union List. An appeal against the Madras High Court judgment is reported to be pending before the Supreme Court.

Strategic crude oil reserves

*338. SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM:
SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether construction of strategic crude oil storages will begin this year as an insurance against disruptions during wars and other emergencies;

(b) whether of the three sites selected to hold 5 million tons a year's crude oil reserves is equivalent to country's 15 days requirement;

(c) whether it is proposed to double the overall strategic reserve capacity to 73.3 million barrels, twice the 15 days cover planned currently;

(d) by when the remaining sites of the capacity would be considered; and

(e) to what extent this would help the country in meeting the shortage during the emergency period?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) The Strategic Oil Reserves are being located at Visakhapatnam, Mangalore & Padur. The construction activities of Strategic Oil Reserves at Visakhapatnam have already begun. For the Mangalore Project, tenders for pre-qualification of bidders are being issued. Construction activities at mangalore are expected to commence during the current financial year. As regards the Padur project, pre-construction activities such as survey for land acquisition, application for environmental clearances and pipeline route survey are in progress.

(b) The three sites will together hold 5 Million Metric Ton (MMT) crude oil reserves, which is equivalent to about 14 days' cover on consumption basis and 19 days' cover on net import basis of 2006-07.

(c) and (d) The Government has approved creation of a total of 15 MMT strategic storage capacity which will be done in phases, after completion of the ongoing first phase of 5 MMT capacity.

(e) In conjunction with the tankage capacity available with the Public Sector Oil Companies, the Strategic Reserves will enable the country to deal with situations of

short-term disruptions in supply of crude oil due to any emergency from a global event or in helping the supply position during/after a natural calamity.

AIR connectivity

†*339. SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the major cities in the country have been linked with air services;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) the details of the airports in the country for whose construction, political organizations and public representatives have requested during the last three years till date; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. At present scheduled air services are available to from 79 cities, the details of which are as under:

Agratala, Agatti, Agra, Ahmedabad, Aizwal, Allahabad, Amritsar, Aurangabad, Bagdogra, Bangalore, Belgaum, Bhavnagar, Bhopal, Bhubaneshwar, Bhuj, Calicut, Chandigarh, Chennai, Cochin, Coimbatore, Dehradun, Delhi, Dharamshala, Dibrugarh, Dimapur, Diu, Goa, Gorakhpur, Guwahati, Gwalior, Hubli, Hyderabad, Imphal, Indore, Jabalpur, Jaipur, Jammu, Jamnagar, Jamshedpur, Jodhpur, Jorhad, Kandla, Kanpur, Khajuraho, Kolhapur, Kolkata, Kullu, Leh, Lilabari, Lucknow, Madurai, Mangalore, Mumbai, Nagpur, Pathankot, Patna, Porbander, Port Blair, Pune, Raipur, Rajamundary, Rajkot, Ranchi, Shillong, Shimla, Silchar, Srinagar, Surat, Thoise, Triupati, Trichi, Trivandrum, Tuticorin, Udaipur, Vadodara, Varanasi, Vidyanagar, Vijayawada, Vizag.

(d) and (e) Details of representations received from various public representatives during the past three years and their status are at the Statement.

Statement

Details of representations received from various public representatives during last three years and their status

State	Name of Place	Name of Political organization/ Public representative	Status
1	2	3	4
Maharashtra	Nevali District (Thane)	Sh. Moti Lal Vora (MP)	Pre feasibility study conducted.
	Shirdi	Sh. Bala Saheb Vikhe Patil (MP)	Being developed by Govt. of Maharashtra
	Sindhudurg	Sh. R.R. Patil Dy Chief Minister of Maharashtra	Pre feasibility study conducted.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.